

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

# Recycling Program Update

Zero Waste Advisory Commission | April 2018



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# Agenda

- Applicability of Universal Recycling Ordinance
- Parks and Recreation Department (PARC)
  - PARC Responsibilities
  - Current Recycling Program
- Recycling Pilot Program
  - Goals, Timeline, and Austin Resource Recovery Partnership
  - Aquatics, Metro Parks, Athletic Fields and other park sites
- Education and Outreach Campaign
  - Leave No Trace
- Next Steps
  - Comprehensive Recycling Program
  - Challenges, Approach, and Considerations
- Questions



# Universal Recycling Ordinance

- **Chapter 15-6, Article 5.**

- Requires convenient access to recycling capacity for tenants and employees
- As of October 1, 2017, all commercial properties in Austin are required to have recycling
- City facilities are expected to meet the requirements
- Open spaces, including public parks, are **not** included in the current ordinance



# Austin Parks and Recreation Department

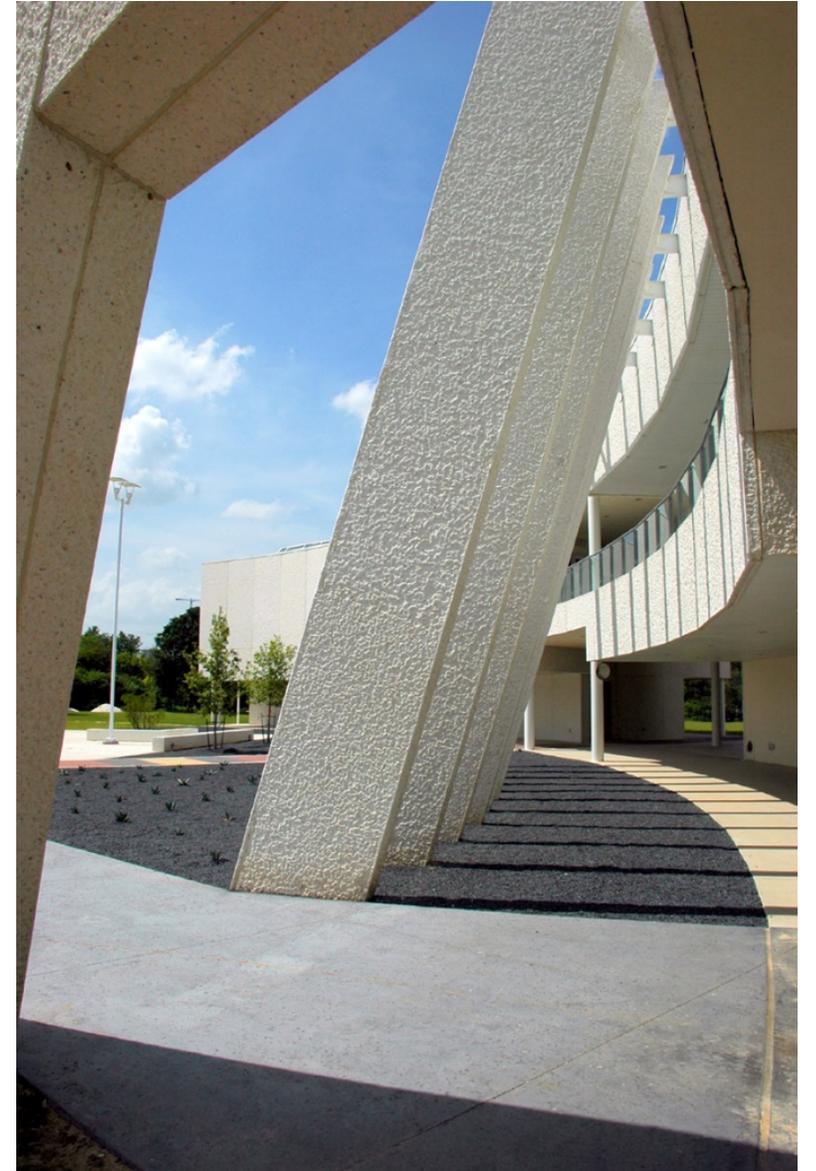
## Mission

To inspire Austin to learn, play, protect and connect by creating diverse programs and experiences in sustainable natural spaces and public places



# Current Recycling Efforts

- All administrative offices have recycling available for employees and visitors
- Recycling is also available at the following public facilities:
  - ✓ **All** recreation centers
  - ✓ **All** museums and cultural centers
  - ✓ **All** special events at parks
- Pilot Recycling Program implementation at selected high-impact facilities



# Pilot Recycling Program

- Goal: develop, fund and implement comprehensive recycling
- Steps
  - Build cross-functional recycling team
  - Prioritize facilities with greatest demand for recycling
  - Conduct benchmark waste audit
  - Develop standards for collection system
  - Collect data and evaluate progress
  - Assess budget impact and needs
  - Launch comprehensive recycling program
- Partnership with ARR
  - Evaluate current status of recycling in PARD facilities
  - Conduct site visits and assessments
  - Develop checklists and tools
  - Create guidelines for parks
  - Identify funding opportunities
  - Establish metrics
  - Provide process to add PARD facilities to ARR curbside service routes
- Timeline



# Pilot Recycling Program – Aquatics

- **Year-round pools**
  - Deep Eddy
  - Barton Springs
  - Bartholomew
  - Springwoods
  - Big Stacy
- **Expanding recycling to all seasonal pools**
  - 9 pools already recycle using neighborhood recycling routes
  - 3 pools will be added this summer



# Pilot Recycling Program – Metropolitan Parks

Three (3) Metropolitan Parks:

## Zilker Metro Park

Before: 136 Landfill Receptacles  
After: 60 Landfill / 56 Recycling Receptacles

## Town Lake Metro Park

Before: 65 Landfill Receptacles  
After: 31 Landfill / 24 Recycling Receptacles

## Walnut Creek Metro Park

Before: 79 Landfill Receptacles  
After: 27 Landfill / 10 Recycling Receptacles



# Pilot Recycling Program – District and Neighborhood Parks

District and Neighborhood Parks:

## Bull Creek District Park

Before: 30 Landfill Receptacles  
After: 10 Landfill / 10 Recycling Receptacles

## Ramsey Neighborhood Park

Before: 9 Landfill Receptacles  
After: 5 Landfill / 5 Recycling Receptacles

## Walsh Boat Landing

Before: 10 Landfill Receptacles  
After: 1 Landfill / 1 Recycling Receptacle



# Pilot Recycling Program – Golf Courses and Athletic Fields

- **Golf Courses**

5 out of 6 Golf Courses (except Lions)

- **Krieg Softball Complex**

Before: 65 Landfill Receptacles

After: 33 Landfill / 33 Recycling Receptacles

- **Havins Softball Complex**

Before: 45 Landfill Receptacles

After: 9 Landfill / 9 Recycling Receptacles



# Leave No Trace: The 7 Principles



1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



# Next Steps – Comprehensive Recycling Plan

- Identify funding and partnerships to build recycling team, purchase containers, and fund operational expenses
- Continue partnership with ARR to implement recycling at all parks
- Adopt consistent branding for public space recycling:
  - “Recycle on the Go” downtown
  - “Pack it in – Pack it out” parks and greenbelts
  - “Leave no Trace”



# Implementation Challenges and Approach

## Challenges

- Limited Resources
- Financial Impact
- Competing Priorities

### Phase I

- Aquatics
- Athletic Complexes
- Metropolitan Parks
- Golf Courses

### Phase II

- District Parks

### Phase III

- Neighborhood Parks
- Remaining Park Facilities

# Implementation Considerations

- Education and Outreach
  - Signage
  - Public Awareness Campaign
    - *Bull Creek* model
- Metrics
  - Establish benchmarks – we don't know what we don't measure
- Asset Management
  - GIS mapping of containers



# Questions



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